

Who but a professional botanist, or one of the new school as regards nomenclature, will be able to recognize even common trees in the absence of synonymy? Even if we may admit that students fortunate enough to pursue their studies in the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum will not be disconcerted, in the presence of the familiar tree, to see *Carya alba* labeled *Hicoria ovata*, can we suppose that more than one student in a hundred, looking for the description of *Ulmus racemosa* will, even after some diligence, recognize it as *Ulmus Thomasi*?

But perhaps these remarks are beside the point. The question is, what will the student find in the book? The minutest, fullest details as to the characteristics in trunk, in branch, in twig, in leaf, in flower, in fruit, of every tree hitherto observed in all the length and breadth of North America, exclusive of Mexico; an account also of its climatal and geographical range; and last and best pen drawings to the number of six hundred and forty-four by the accurate hand of Charles Edward Faxon. "In them," as the author says, and we are inclined to agree with him, "will be found the chief value of this manual."

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POLYGONUM EXSERTUM IN MASSACHUSETTS. — *Polygonum exsertum* Small has been collected several times along the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts, associated with *Aster subulatus* Michx. After frost this species is rendered somewhat conspicuous by the reddening of the foliage and sepals. Where it grows in dry soil it is reduced in size and has smaller fruit. Mature achenes from a plant less than a foot high were only three millimeters long. Specimens examined: *A. S. Pease*, no. 482, Sept. 27, 1900, (Hb. Pease); *A. H. Moore*, no. 1539, Nov. 10, 1903, (Hb. Moore); *H. H. Bartlett*, Oct. 26, 1904, (Gray Hb. and Hb. Bartlett).—H. H. BARTLETT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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